

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-25, 28-32 and 34-37 are all the claims pending in the application. It is noted with appreciation that claims 36 and 37 have been allowed and that claims 5-17, 23, 30, 34 and 35 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Thus, the only remaining items is the rejection of claims 18 and 22 under § 112 (first paragraph) as failing to comply with the written description requirement and the rejection of claims 1-4, 19-21, 28, 29 and 31 under §102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis (U.S. Patent No. 2,616,723). By way of this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 18 and 22. Thus, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

As to the § 112 (first paragraph) rejection of claims 18 and 22, Applicants have removed the offending language. Specifically, claim 18 now recites that fastening element is cylindrical and claim 22 now recites that the recess extends around the periphery of the welt flap in a 360 degree angle. It is believed that these limitations are fully supported by the specification. With respect to claim 7, it has been amended to depend from claim 5 to provide antecedent basis for the first and second fastening elements recited therein.

With respect to the § 102 rejection, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the welt flap laterally protrudes “within” said welt core. It is submitted that Lewis does not teach or suggest this aspect of the invention. More specifically, the Examiner stated that “Lewis discloses a welt core 4, a decorative material 26 of fabric surrounding the core and a flap 6 protruding from the core with fasteners 16 projecting therefrom; See the Figures and column 2, line 17 through column 3, line 15. The fasteners 16 protrude laterally from the flap 6.”

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
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In column 2, lines 20-23, Lewis states, "Clips 6 are shown surrounding the core 4..., and carry prongs 8 to provide means for holding said welting firmly to the fender joint." How the clip 6 surrounds the core 4 can also be clearly seen in Fig. 2. Hence, in Lewis the welt flap is not protruding from within the welt core as recited in amended claim 1. Consequently, the present invention, as recited in amended claim 1, is not anticipated by Lewis.

Furthermore, there is no motivation or suggestion in Lewis for a welt flap protruding from within the welt core. Consequently, the present invention, as recited in amended claim 1, is believed also not to be obvious over Lewis.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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